

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a packet network, comprising the steps of:  
processing a message in a standardized interface, the message including an indicia; and  
identifying a packet application in response to the indicia.
- 5           2. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A1 interface.
- 10           3. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A3 interface.
- 15           4. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A5 interface.
- 20           5. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A7 interface.
- 25           6. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A9 interface.
- 30           7. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A10 interface.
- 35           8. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the standardized interface is an A11 interface.
9. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a control plane packet application.
10. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a bearer packet application.
11. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1; wherein the packet application is a push-to-talk packet application.

12. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a Voice-over-IP packet application.

5       13. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the packet application is a delay-sensitive packet application.

14. A method of operating a packet network, comprising the steps of:  
communicating an A10 message including a generic routing encapsulation header; and  
identifying a type of message in response to the generic routing encapsulation header.

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15       15. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the type of message is a control message.

15       16. A method of operating a packet network, as set forth in claim 14, wherein the type of message is a bearer message.

20       17. A method of identifying an application in a packet network, comprising the steps of:  
identifying a user application;  
formulating a message including a flag, the flag identifying the user application; and  
communicating the message including the flag using a radio link protocol.

18. A method of identifying an application in a packet network, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the user application is a PTT application and the message is a PTT block of bits.

25       19. A method of operating a dormant MS, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a signaling message;  
identifying a packet-based application in response to receiving the signaling message; and  
communicating the signaling message to a dormant MS using a short data burst.

30       20. A method of operating a dormant MS, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method is performed in a PCF.

35       21. A method of operating network, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a reverse SDB from a dormant MS; and  
delivering the SDB to a PDSN using an A10 interface.